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Stevenson's Baby Book

BEING THE RECORD OF
THE SAYINGS AND DOINGS
OF ROBERT LOUIS BALFOUR STEVENSON

SON OF
THOMAS STEVENSON, C. E.
AND MARGARET ISABELLA BALFOUR
OR STEVENSON



SAN FRANCISCO
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TO ALL CHILDREN,
BIG AND LITTLE, WHO LOVE STEVENSON,
THIS PUBLICATION IS
DEDICATED.

A NOTE TO THE READER

THIS *Baby Record* was meant by the young mother who wrote it, as all such Records are, to keep, for memory's sake, an account of the first years of her adored child. A few of the notes were added by her in later years.

What gives this Record extraordinary value, what sets it apart from countless others, undertaken in the same sweet cause, is that it proved to be the first chapter of the biography of one of the best-loved men who ever lived; and, it will not need to be pointed out, the contents foreshadow in spirit, originality and imagination the great man the wee laddie was to become.

The mother was Margaret Isabella Balfour Stevenson and the babe was Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson. With every passing year this *Baby Record* grew a more precious possession to the mother. On her death, which followed soon after that of her famous son, the Record passed into the keeping of her sister, Jane Whyte Balfour, the "Auntie" of the "Child's Garden of

Verse." But "Auntie" was already old. It was her concern to give this precious volume to one who would regard it with equal affection. She chose another young mother, a relative by marriage, who, too, had a little son.

Since then many years have passed. The Baby Record, always in the new owner's keeping, has traveled far; sometimes in a satchel on trains and ocean steamers, again hidden in dark bank vaults in widely dispersed cities.

Now, after long treasuring it as a personal possession, it is offered in fee simple that it may reach many other lovers of Robert Louis Stevenson.

KATHARINE D. OSBOURNE.



BABY'S

RECORD.



BABY'S RECORD

BY

R. I. W.



LONDON:

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PREFACE.



As young mothers delight in nothing more than the comparisons of their children's early attainments, no excuse is needed in dedicating to them this concise registry of their darling's doings.

The record will in many cases prove an invaluable aid to the doctor in the treatment of illnesses in later life.





BABY'S RECORD.





THE RECORD OF

the sayings & doings of
Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson
son of Thomas Stevenson C. E. &
Margaret Isabella Balfour or Stevenson

.....

.....

Mr Sayers was sent for about 2. a.m. on
the 10th of Decr. Tom & I had been being
washed for the first time on the evening
before & Tom had remarked "I trust it
may never fall to my lot to wash a
baby" When I was told that Mr S. was
sent for I began to cry saying "I have
never ever washed him yet" to which
Tom replied "touts, such nonsense, I'll
wash the child myself" which made
me laugh when I remembered his
solemn speech made a few hours before.
Mrs Alan Stinsons nurse Grett came.
Till a day till wash him till we got
a Mrs Thurston a widow as nurse.
She stayed 3 months & was very uncom-
fortable & at last we found out that

BIRTH.



Place of Birth *8 Howard Place Edinburgh*

Time of Birth *Wednesday 13th Nov^r 1850 at 1.30 P.M.*

Weight.....

Length.....

Breadth.....

Colour of Eyes *blue at first turning to hazel*

Colour of Hair *very fair - almost none at first*

Nurse's Name *Mrs. Sayers*

Doctor's Name *Dr. Malcolm*

NAMES.

Surname *Steuers*

Christian Names *Robert Louis Balfour*

Pet Names *Boulieashier - Smontie - Pearson
Broadnose - Signor Sprucki otherwise
Maister Spruck & many others but Smontie
stuck to him till he was about 15.*

she drank so we sent her away & got
a very lively & active woman called
Machugie - a capital worker. She stayed
till he was 18 months old & then "Alice
Channingham" to whom the Child's Garden
of Nurses is dedicated came.

BAPTISM.

Date.....

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RELIGIOUS LIFE.

First Prayer "Jesus tender Shepherd"

First Verse learned by heart.....

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Other Religious Events.....

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Remarks.....

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Early Incidents

March 25th 1857. short coated

June 10th - long & Rab-bale

20th - Got shoes on

27th - Can creep backwards

25th - crawled

30th - sits up alone & can creep forwards

July 13th - 8 months old - pulls himself up by the sides of his bed

" 29th - pulls himself up by a stool

August 25th - Smootie climbed up the stairs at Kortobello (18 steps) his Father followed him all the way with a very proud face. This month he also learns to show how big he is - clap his hands (the backs) read a book & eat a piece - got boots on

Sept 19th - stands alone for the first time. & begins to coince a decided partiality for eggs.

EARLY INCIDENTS.



First Journey to Colinton House at 3 months old

First Crawl June 27th backwards, 30th forwards

First Walk October 4th walks 3 steps alone 11th fairly off

First Word June 10th bab-bab

First Hair Cutting.....

First Sentence.....

First Visit to the Sea.....

First Ride.....

CHARACTERISTICS.

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1851

Additional Nov. 13th - "our darling boy a whole year old today. He is running about & fondly calls Tom "Mama"; mends his hands at the fire, blows out lights & talks a great deal more unknown tongue besides, numerous other accomplishments of a Coleridge Nov. 22nd - baby deprived of his bottle

1852

Jan 13 Smout gives up his forenoon sleep & calls books "Orps" because he expects to find pictures of dogs in them

July This month we spent three days at ~~Beantland~~ Beantland where Smout made many friends particularly Mr. Scidmore the landlord of the ~~house~~ Chapel on 15th & about one the most intimate friends. He comes in to Mays every morning Mrs. M. D. Constable says that Smout



August Portabella Smout went to English and understood pictures better than any child of his age that he ever saw.

Sept 12 Smout begins to be fond of stories & sometimes asks to be told about "the big stick" meaning Cain's child. Nov 1 & Daniel among the "stories" are his favorites.

Oct 7 Smout walked all the way to Saxel's shop & back with me to call on Aunt Marion.

23 Smout knows all the story of Eve & made Tom & Andy a great many out of the Bible including the flood & the burning bush - he remembers them wonderfully.

Nov 27 Smout in Colston Church with (many) ~~well~~ we sat in the front gallery as again as a pledge the whole time. When asked who preached he said "Gatty & a man" (the preacher) when he was shown my picture with curls (which I have since up he said "my hair to make it all tidy") when he saw the shadow on the wall he said "the shadows hands all chit tyt"

Early Incidents Continued

Oct 4th Smoot walked 3 steps alone

" 11th almost painfully off now.

Dec 14th Poor Smoot very ill. - a fearful cold
D^r Winter sacrifices his gun's

" 16th he says Aggie & Ida (Jane) & tries
Mang. He mourns over the poor drowned
haep in the nursery & scolds "naughty
Oliver" (a little statuette of Oliver Cromwell.
Diary for 1852 cont. found later.

1853.

Jan 4th Smoot said "Mama call me
meddle some matter because my touch
enough sing"

Jan 8 Smoot told Papa he had been in the
Mantel Piece gardens (experimental)

Jan 10th When Smoot was told Grandpa had got
a coach with a driver he said "is it a basket?"

Jan 12 Smoot said "What will follow me (coming)"
alluding to the last verse of the 23^d Psalm.

Jan 22nd Smoot at his first party at Forth St. he
was very glad & shouted with delight when
he saw the magic lantern

1853

Jan 23^d Sinout's first words this morning were
"Did huck David shew it to me Nanna?"
He was at church at Free St. Bernard's before
& he showed remarkable quill

Jan 25th Sinout at the Zoological Gardens - highly
pleased & very courageous - he went close
to the "Elephant" & even in the tiger house
said "very not frightened".

Feb 3rd Sinout begins to walk up stairs like a biped.

Feb 2. Sinout begins to say a prayer as well as his hymns

Feb 17th after Sinout went out he expressed great
distress because he had not made "an elegant
bow to Nanna".

Feb 19th When Sinout forgets to say please he corrects
himself & says "Oh, that's the better way to
ask it!"

March 6th Sinout's canary died
7th today Cunningham buried it in the back
Green & Sinout came & told me that "she
put dirt upon it"

March 8th When Sinout says his prayer he asks
"Is my speaking to God?"

March 16th - Dear little Sinout very ill with an attack
of croup. He had on a mustard plaster on
his chest & two leeches on his dear little
foot - when he saw the blood he said
"cover it up, cover it up" the bites had

VACCINATION.



By whom performed *J. Med. Calce*

Date *Feb. 15th 1851*

Remarks

FOODS.

At nine months

At twelve months

At eighteen months

At two years

Remarks



Weight and Growth.

Growth at two years *2 feet 9 inches*

Weight at two years *27 lbs*

1853.

to be burned with caustic, he was unpatient
dear little man but accused Cummey of
hurting him

March 17th better but pelled.

March 20th Cummey fears Smonts affliction
has not done him good! as he is
much amiss to prayers hymns & all
good things.

April 3. When I was telling Smont about the
naughty woman pouring the ointment
upon Christ he said "but Ma'am
why did God make the ~~the~~ woman so
naughty?"

April 15. Colinton Ma'am Smont is so happy
in dear Grandpapa's house that he says
he will not go home again

April 16. Auntie was telling Smont about an
owl & said that it could not see in
the daylight; he immediately said
"Oh, Auntie, you might put up the gas
for it"

April 17. Smont at Church & he behaved very well
Whinnie & Mamma are quite surprised
because Smont says prayers out of his
head. This is because he puts in the name
of everybody in the house of his own accord.

April 23^d Home today Smont in great despair
his only comfort being that he will see
Daddy & Mamma

BOYS' AMUSEMENTS.



First Cricket Match.....

Place in the Field.....

Score



First Foot-Ball Match.....

Place

First Game of Chess.....

First Game of Lawn Tennis.....

First Game of Racquets.....

First Game of Fives.....

First Rowing Match.....

*Pet Animals. Coolen a Skipton was
given to him just before he was 7 years old
& was his constant companion & after Coolen
could play at table & seeh & do many tricks*

1853

May 20th - Smont at Free Church Bridge of Cellan
with Cumming & was very good. He got
aumatic before he went in & kept it in
his hand the whole time. - The servant in
our lodgings thinks he should be "put
in the papers" as something extraordinary

June 12th - On the way to Church Smont made
the announcement that he "liked the
white ministers best".

June 26th - Smont at Lafe Church with us he
said he saw "two babies getting their
faces washed"

July 24th - Smont at Bidge Church with Cumming
when he came home he told us "The portent
down minister (the predecessor) roared
as loud as air he could".
Smont's favourite occupation is "making
a Church he makes a pulpit with a
Chair & Table stool & reads sitting & stands
up & sings by turns

August - went to St Andrews - there was a
cat in the house (Bell St) which delighted
Smont very much - when it purred he
said it was singing "joyful"

4th - Smont is delighted with the ruins of the
Bishops Palace & the story of "Candel Pestel"
& the bottle of dungeon. He gets a bit of paper tied to
a string & shows the way the man shows the dungeon.

DATES OF SICKNESSES.



Measles.....

Mumps July 23. 1855 very badly well on 28th

Other Ailments.....

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Remarks.....

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B

1853

- Augst 11th Smont's weight 2 stone 1 lb
he rides on a donkey almost every
day & likes it. he rides beautifully
without being held on.
- Sept^r at Pictorpaus we have a donkey of our
own & Smont calls it "Sashy" the weather
is so cold & windy that he is very seldom
able to ride on it
- Oct^r 1st Smont's height is 2 ft 11½ inches - he is a
great chatterbox & speaks very distinctly
he knows a great many stories out of the
Bible & about half the letters of the Alphabet
but he is not so fond of hymns as he used to be



- Dec^r 3^d Mr. Swan at dinner Smont recited the first
4 lines of "On Linden" in great style waving
his hand & making a splendid bow at the
end - this is punning teaching
- Dec^r 5th His Grandfather was made D.D. today
when he was told he said "well, will he
come to see you when you're ill"
- Dec^r 6 Smont chose to have made with Aunt Jane
& Grandmother Marion & at night "Grandfather's
horse" was included in his prayers
- Dec^r 8th Smont said "I don't like that movie it
has got a bit broken off it."
- Dec^r 16th Smont was building the Palace made with

1853.

his bricks today & he asked "where the Kings
of Holes was" & said he was putting up the
mas for the court. He then remarked "this
Tabernacle is sticked on to the road, it isn't
meant to be carried about"

1854

Jan 12. Poor Son said in a doleful tone "I've got
nobody to play with me, will you come
maama?"

Jan 15 Smoot told about Pilgrims Progress
much to his delight

Jan 21 Alan Margaret & Bob come to pay us a visit
when they got home Bob told his Sister of the
delights of Sumner's Terrace where there
was only one dear child who was always
good, a nurse who was never cross & cute
olivers!

Jan 24 Smoot seems very tired, he came to me &
said "do you think I'm looking very ill?"
it turns out infantile remittent fever

Jan 31 Smoot able to play with his bricks on a tea
tray in bed

March 3. Smoot complained of the frogs because he
said "they had nuts inside of them" Some
think this quite a scientific discovery

March 21 When I told Smoot about the way the
Americans used their slaves he said
"I think God might send them a punishment"

26 - When I read "there is beyond the ship" B. L. O.,
he said "but, why has God got a hell?"
I said "are we good or bad people?"
Smoot "I think you & Ma are good."

1854

Said "but what kind of hearts have we?"

Samuel "I think you've got a nice one!"

March 30 Samuel was distressed to hear that cheap
a horse did not know about God & said

"I think someday might read the bible
to them"

April 12. Samuel's little cousin "Bo" died today
he did not like to hear about it & said
he hoped it would please God never to let
him die" he asked "if Bo would be
playing in Heaven"

17. When Samuel was drawing a picture he
said "I have drawn a man's body, shall
I do his soul now?"

19. When he was shown a birds nest he said
"there were little birdies in the nest & eggs
for them to eat"

May 18. Samuel wishes us to bring him "a small
hammer & 4 small nails" from London

June 26 Samuel & I were talking about Heaven &
golden harps & he said "but I'm afraid
I could not play nicely upon my one"

July 17. Son at Church at Llanwrthwl - he said of
the sermon "it was not so good as I thought"

24th Son cried because he forgot to pray that dear
Rafael might be brought safe home"

July 27 When Son was asked if he admired a
chess he said "no, it's ugly bulger"

Sept 15 Son sawed through a piece of wood



TEETH.



~~Two Lower~~
First Upper Tooth April 16th 1851

~~First~~
Second Upper Tooth May 18th "

~~Second~~
Third Upper Tooth June 3^d

~~Fourth~~ 5th Upper Tooth June 8th

~~First Lower~~ 6th Tooth June 21st

~~Second Lower~~ 7th Tooth Sept 2nd

~~Third Lower~~ 8th Tooth Oct 4th

~~Fourth Lower~~ 1st double Tooth 3^d Dec 2^d & 3^d on 7th Dec

Date of Completion 4th Dec 18th

First Tooth Lost July 9 1856

2 double teeth 1 above & 1 below discolored Sept 4 1857
Sept 27 3^d double tooth Oct 23 4th double tooth
First New Tooth

Remarks

1854

- Oct 14. Smoot sees Jane Watson baby & says
"she is awfully nice in the face".
Nov 13. Lon's 4th birthday - he got a brooch to give
to Cinnamon but said in a disappointed
tone "people always gets presents for
themselves on their birthdays".
Dec. 2nd home from Morningside where he had
been for a month on Louis's account - he
said he was glad to get home as he had
not a nice sideboard at Morningside
it just had a place for setting things on &
then another place for setting things on & that
was all."



- Dec 8th - Lon said "you can never be good unless
you pray" when asked how he knew he said
with great emphasis "because I've tried it".
11th Lon is improving but requires to be kept very strict
when forbidden to run about with one of his friends
he looked thoughtful for a minute, then threw
away a tag which he had in his hand & said
with great indignation "I can't be bothered with
such fiddle de dee & nonsense".
18th Lon sits for his portrait in chalk to Mr. Archer
when Mr. A. asked him what kind of stories he
liked best he said "I like parables (A parable)
& funny stories too, you know" he chalks out
and in picture he can get hold of."

1854

- Dec-22 Son prays every night of his own accord
that God would bless the poor soldiers
that are fighting at Sebastopol
- Dec-25. Smoot gave a card for his Christmas
present when Tom was disappointed
he said "I can tell you Papa it's a silver
card & a gold sheath & the boys very
well off & quite contented"

1855:

- Jan 1. Dear little Son very well indeed just
now he neither coughs nor wheezes
- Jan 2. Smoot asked to have his name put on a book
Heid "Mr. Smoot is out" he replied "Oh but
you must put it's his book or somebody
will say 'oh, oh, oh Mr. Smoot has been
writing his name on one of his Papa's books'"
- Jan 5. dear Smoot's curls cut off today, I was
quite sorry to part with them - his hair
is made very short & he is rather a fright
- Jan 8. Son "do the flies make honey?" "No" no did
Son "then do they make butter like butterflies?"
M. "butterflies don't make butter" Son "then
what is the use of them?"
- Jan 9 When made to wear a shawl alone his sword
he was in distress for fear it would not look
like a soldier & then said "do you think
it will look like a night mare Mama?"
- Jan 10 When Son saw the sun looking red he
said "its just like a great big orange
thrown up into the sky"

1855.

Jan 12. Smoot measured today. His height is 3ft 3 inches & half a quarter, he has grown almost 2 1/4 inches since last April

Jan 16 Cummy was climbing the ladder today to hang up dicky & told Lon to hold it for her. it gave way & he began to say "its too heavy, its too heavy" but he did not let go his hold even when he got his nose blood, indeed he clutched at Cummy's gown to keep her from falling.

Jan 18. Smoot snatched himself into the nurse today & we could not get the door opened till Mr Hunter (the night) came & took out the panel - he was very good as long as any one spoke through the door to him but cried when we tried to get him to open it. When he got out he said he had been afraid that he would never get out any more but would just be lost

Jan 22 Lon has taken a great fancy to the parable of the vineyard lot out to husbandmen & can repeat it perfectly just from hearing it read

Feb 6. Lon dreamt that "he heard the noise of news writing"

Feb 7 When I asked Lon what story he would like read he said "oh you may read the 9th story of John, that's about the man that was born blind you know"

Feb 8. Tom & I played at Willie Wastle with Lon last night - he was greatly delighted but got into such a state of excitement that he scarcely slept all night

1855

Feb 15. Lou is quite mad on the subject of soldiers
 & the war, he prays night & morning for "our poor
 soldiers at Schattopel that are fighting at Schattopel
 & that they may get the victory" this is quite of
 his own accord

Feb 23: Lou said "mama how can God give us his
 Holy Spirit & yet he good himself? I'm at a
 loss" he also said "I'm often long in the
 night when I think of all the Jews did to
 Jesus
 at this time Lunning had been ill & had
 gone home for a change & I had influenza
 & was confined to bed so Lou was very much
 alone he generally spent his time in colouring



the pictures in pictorial papers with coloured
 chalks. One day when his Aunt Warden
 went in to see him she asked if he did
 not wear up all alone he replied "oh no
 I'm always doing something for know"

Mar 5. Lou thinks he is more like Jonathan than
 any of the other Bible characters as Jonathan
 had a sword & a bow & arrows & so has he,
 he is generally either Jonathan or Lord
 Raglan just now

Mar 17. Simon's dream "I heard that I was going
 down stairs & I saw a Russian bear looking
 out at the pantry door & it came up & took
 hold of my foot & I smothered it & it was just a dream

1855

- Mar 29 another dream "I dreamed that I was at
a marriage & a lady asked me to go to his room
& when I looked out at the window I saw a basket
hanging down from the sky & it was full of
doors all round & somebody gave me something
that wasn't good for me & I would not take
it. The something appears to have been
a cookie of some kind & he said the basket
"was hung on a nail driven into a cloud"
- May 6. Simon's sermon on baptism "Moses cut the
into a field on the Sunday & rapette or pickett
sticks is not of God & shall not go to Heaven
but if he did anything more on the Sunday
he must go to Hell. Everyone must do nothing
that's wrong" then a psalm was sung
- May 9. Lon was naughty today & after he went to
bed he said to Pimmy "I would like to be good
I think I must say my prayer more correctly
but if I forget will you do it for me"
- June 16. Simon's song "and to get a tickle (sweetie)
any night? I thought I heard a slight tickle
of it"
- June 17. Simon complained that his tea was "very faint"
- July 5 (at Mount Clunice & Laxenale) Simon said
"there's a very large claise, not a make yet. Oh
I suppose it must be a night policeman for you
know they keep awake all night & go to sleep through
the day"
- July 7 Simon was asked "what would you do if you
were left on a desert island? S. I would come
away" but if there was water all round? S. I would
come away "in a ship" but if there was no ship
S. I would send a letter by the post? If there was no?
S. I would sit down & take a higher seat"

1855

August 10. Lon bathed in the sea (at Portshells) for the first time & likes it very well

Aug 17. Lon now dips his face into the water himself & calls it going over the head. He is looking stronger than he has done for a long time & keeps digging in the sand. His favourite companion is little Marion Rhind.

Sept 1. Smout's poetry
"The sun is in the sky
While night comes on
Then stars & moon come out
And there another day.
The sun comes out again"

Sept 22 At Craighan near Arrachar where we were staying with Grandpa & me were all playing at tag & Smout said "I'll catch you round the house Mauna but we'll both walk"
24. Lon was trying to make a boat of a piece of stick & said it would not sail "because the occurrence (current) was against it"

Oct 26. Smout was chawing alone, after he made the poet he said "now I'll put the hat on it"

Nov 4. Lon dined in the dining room with us at five o'clock for the first time - he is to do it every Sunday & thinks himself a very big man

1856

Jan 20 Smout dines with us

13 Mar Smout heard about fearing God he said "Why should people fear him as if he was going to kill them"

1856

Jan^y Smoot's prayer "O Lord if it seems good
17 to you let me have a new brother or sister,
if you think proper."

18 Lewis takes scarlatina today - a mild case
Feb 5. Dear me - Lora prayed among other things
"that God would be very merciful to person
that was not very well."

Feb 17 When I asked Lora what he had been doing
he said "I've been playing all day - at least
I've been making myself cheerful"

23 When Tom told Smoot about putting lines of
stones for the wheels of carts he said "that was a
very good idea & when we come to that bridge
I'll show you the railway & its put the way & something



and I'll show you another thing that I want to
know the meaning of & that's why they put code
water bottles on the telegraph"

Feb 24. I said something to Smoot about Christ being
died to save him he said "did he die to save
me?" "yes" "me?" "yes" "well then doesn't that
look very like as if I was saved already?"

March Smoot said "I'm going to call you 'mother'"
7 sometimes just that I may remember to do
it when I'm a big man" at night he said
"good night my penitentiary of mothers"

15. Smoot's syllabus "hama has a match
box?" "why do you ask dear?" "because Papa
said flame was gas, now a match has
a flame"

1856

- March Smoot goes to Loms for dancing "Joe"
25 - pronounced him stupid & gave him several
blows with the fiddlestick - poor Smoot looked
at Lums but did not cry. When Mrs
Marden asked him how he liked the dancing
he said "it was rather disappointing" he
took cold after the lesson & was not able to
go back.
- April 12 Smoot & I come home after a week at
Colutor. Smoot is unproprio to leave legs
to be allowed to sleep till Monday.
18. Smoot can't understand the days getting
long or, says he "would rather go to bed at the
10 o'clock that used to be".
19. When saying the reverse of "I'm not too young"
Smoot said "such that's just nonsense for
it looks as if God only said me when I'm
now I thought he saw me always whatever
I was doing".
- 29 Smoot discovers that he can make purple
paint by mixing crimson & blue.
- June 15 Tom explained to Loms the rise of the
sap up the stem to the branches - on asking
him if he understood the explanation he
said "yes the sap is like an old man & the
root & stem the horse that pulls him up the hill".
- July 4 Loms had ^{bad} attack of "Mr Scurvy" after had
toothache - he was in a fright & was quite
delirious for some time - we had to get the doctor.
- 6 When Loms got a look for taking a dose & was
told it cost 2/6 he said "If I had known it was
so dear I would have chosen something else
for I don't like to waste so much money on
trifles".

1856

- Billy Traquair & Lon had been eating butter off
which caused the peevish attack on the 5th
Sept. Smoot tried to fish for the first time at
27 Sunnylette & with a string & crooked pin
Tom Warden made him believe he had
caught a fish & he was much charmed
30. home from the country after a very wet run
Smoot is so much enchanted with all his toys
that he has scarcely time to eat
Oct. 7. Rob Stevenson comes to stay with us
Nov. 13 Lon's 6th birthday. Aunt Warden gives
him a toy theatre & he & Robbie set to work
to paint the scenes with great eagerness
Nov. 23. Smoot begins today to dictate a history of
Moses to try for a prize which Uncle David is to
give for the best
26. Lon has inflammation of the cheek - it is terribly
swelled & he suffers so much that he tells
me perhaps he may never be better
Dec. 21 Lon finishes his history of Moses today
he dictated every word himself on the Sunday
evening
25 Lon sits a Bible picture book etc. prize for his
Moses & is greatly charmed - When he got it
he said "but I don't deserve it"

1857

Feb 6. Lon is still so peevish that we are
alarmed & Tom gets Christine to see him -
he says it is nothing but bronchitis, that
he should soon be better but this house
(1 Sunnylette Terrace) is bad for him it is
so cold from being an end house.

1857

Feb 13. Son finished colouring a book of soldiers
for David Allen - it was his own idea
he asked me to buy it for him

20 Took Son to Colinton. Today for change, he
complained of pain in his head & was very
sick & ill all night. We sent for the Doctor
who says it is caused by milk - which he had
been ordered - disagreeing with him

March 18. Son still at Colinton & well

April 10. Take Son to Bridge of Allan - take
Mr. Baldanes lodging where Son is very
happy with his gun. When Mr. Warden saw
him crouching behind a bush in the garden
& asked what he was doing he said "I'm
hunting blackbirds" until he had been
told that Magpie birds were to him.
He may have been in the house & come
to 17 Wood Row

May 11. at Aburdor. Smout is improving very
much here - he is getting very wild & like a
wolf.

Sept 20 Dear Scire goes to Mr. Henderson's school
in India St from 10 till 12 o'clock.

Oct 6. Smout says "Mr. Henderson is the most
nicest man that ever was"

Nov 13. Dear Scire spends his 4th birthday in bed
having taken bronchitis but he is much
comforted by the companionship of his
Skye terrier dog called "Coalie" which
arrived lately from the West Coast.

1858

Jan 10. S. "The Churches are much to blame for not
sending missionaries to convert the Chas"
nana" but if people won't go what can the Church
do - will you go where I will be?"

1858

S. "I think you've forgotten one word that was
'needful' M. "What is that?"

S. "If I'm spared!"

Jan 15. You takes bronchitis again

Jan 18. Today Lon drew a picture of Sir Henry Blundell
Mayne while he sent to David Alais before his
papa had seen it. When he heard that I was
bored he checked his others but neither was so
good as the first. The next time I saw him
he said "I'm blamed for kindness & get no
encouragement for endeavours"

Jan 30. When told to take a sleep through the day
Simont said "I'm just like Papa I can't sleep
~~through~~ ⁱⁿ the day time I would be very thankful
if I could

Feb 2. Lon has been better & more since the 13th ult
tonight he becomes much more feverish

Feb 6 When Tom went into the nursery at 12. P.M.
Simont was well awake & said "Papa I have
very bad nights. Papa I'm always thankful
when the morning comes" better on 12th 1858
to London on 17th much to his delight - he
stays till March 9th

Mar 10. Mr. Minshull a young English student begins
to teach Simont from 10 to 12 - he turns out a
disappointment & goes off without saying his

THE
TRANSCRIPTION OF THE
TEXT OF
Stevenson's Baby Book

THE RECORD OF THE SAYINGS
AND DOINGS OF

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson

WRITTEN BY HIS MOTHER
MARGARET ISABELLA BALFOUR OR STEVENSON

[See pages 8 and 10.]

Mrs. Sayers was sent for about 2 a. m. on the 10th of December. Tom and I had seen baby washed for the first time on the evening before and Tom had remarked "I trust it may never fall to my lot to wash a baby." When I was told that Mrs. S. was sent for I began to cry saying "I have never even washed him yet" to which Tom replied "Toots, such nonsense, I'll wash the child myself" which made me laugh when I remembered his solemn speech made a few hours before. Mrs. Alan Stevenson's nurse Guest came twice a day to wash him till we got a Mrs. Thomson, a widow, as nurse. She stayed three months and was very unsatisfactory, and at last we found out that she drank, so we sent her away and got a very lively active woman called Mackenzie, a capital worker. She stayed until he was 18 months old and then "Alison Cunningham" to whom the "Child's Garden of Verse" is dedicated, came.

[See page 9.]

Birth

Place of Birth: 8 Howard Place, Edinburgh.

Time of Birth: Wednesday 13th, November 1850 at 1.30 p.m.

Color of Eyes: Blue at first turning to hazel.

Color of Hair: Very fair almost none at first.

Nurse's Name: Mrs. Sayers.

Doctor's Name: Dr. Malcolm.

Names

Surname: Stevenson.

Christian Names: Robert Louis Balfour.

Pet Names: Boulihasker, Smoutie, Baron Broadnose, Signor Sprucki, otherwise, Maister Sprook and many others, but Smoutie stuck to him until he was about 15.

[See page 11.]

First Prayer. "Jesus tender Shepherd."

[See page 12.]

1851

March 25th: Short Coated.

June 10th: Says Bab-Bab.

June 20th: Got Shoes on.

June 25th: Weaned.

June 27th: Can creep backwards.

June 30th: Sits up alone and can creep forwards.

July 13th: 8 months old, pulls himself up by the sides of his bed.

July 29th: Pulls himself up by a stool.

August 25th: Smoutie climbed up the stairs at Portobello (18 steps) His father followed him all the way with a very proud face. This month he also learns to shew how big he is—clap his hands (the backs) read a book and eat a piece—got boots on.

September 19th: Stands alone for the first time and begins to evince a decided partiality for eggs.

[See page 13.]

Early Incidents

First Journey: to Colinton Manse at three months old.

First Crawl: June 27th backwards, 30th forwards.

First Walk: October 4th walks 3 steps alone. 11th fairly off.

First Word: June 10th, Bab-Bab.

[See page 14.]

Additional—1851

November 13th: Our darling boy a whole year old to-day. He is running about famously, calls Tom "Mama" and warms his hands at the fire, blows out lights and talks a great deal in an unknown tongue besides numerous other accomplishments of a like nature.

November 22nd: Baby deprived of his bottle.

1852

January 13th: Smout gives up his forenoon sleep and calls books "oufs" because he expects to find pictures of dogs in them.

July: This month we spent three days at Burntisland where Smout made many friends particularly Mr. Laidlaw the landlord of the Inn, with whom he walked about on the most intimate terms.

August: Portobello. Smout went to English Chapel on 15th and behaved uncommonly well. He comes into prayers every morning now. Mr. D. Constable says that Smout understands pictures better than any child of his age that he ever saw.

September: Smout begins to be fond of stories and sometimes asks to be told about "the big stick" meaning Cain and Abel, that, and Daniel among the "growlers" are his favourites.

October 7th: Smout walked all the way to Saxecoburg Hall and back with me to call on Aunt Marion.

October 23rd: Smout knows all the story of Eve and Uncle Tom, besides a great many out of the Bible, including the flood and the burning bush. He remembers them wonderfully well.

November 7th: Smout in Colinton Church with Cummy. He sat in the front Gallery as grave as a judge the whole time. When asked who preached, he said "Gatty (Grandfather) and a man" (the precentor). When he was shown my picture with curls, which I have given up, he said "Mama brushing her hair to make it all tidy." When he saw his shadow on the wall, he said "The shadow hands all dirty."

[See page 15.]

October 4th: Smout walked 3 steps alone.

October 11th: Almost fairly off now.

December 14th: Poor Smout very ill—a feverish cold—Dr. Hunter scarifies his gums.

December 16th: He says Aggie and Dea (Jane) and tries Mary. He mourns over the poor drowned boy in the nursery and scolds "naughty Oliver" (little statuette of Oliver Cromwell).

Diary of 1852 lost, found later.

1853

January 4th: Smout said "Mama call me Meddlesome Mat-ty because my touch *every*ing."

January 8th: Smout told Papa he had been in the *mantelpiece* gardens (experimental).

January 10th: When Smout was told Grandpapa has got a coach with a cover he said "Is it a banket?"

January 17th: Smout said "What will follow me, Cummy?" alluding to the last verse of the 23rd Psalm.

January 22nd: Smout at his first party at Forth Street. He was very good and shouted with delight when he saw the magic lantern.

[See pages 16 and 18.]

1853

January 23rd: Smout's first words this morning were "Did Uncle David show it to me, Mama?" He was at Church at Free St. Bernards to-day and behaved remarkably well.

January 25th: Smout at the Zoological Gardens—highly pleased and very courageous—he went close to the "Eel-infault" and even in the tiger house said "My not fight-ened."

January 31st: Smout begins to walk up stairs like a biped.

February 17th: Smout begins to say a prayer as well as his hymn. After Smout went out he expressed great distress because he had not made "an *elegant* bow to Mama."

February 19th: When Smout forgets to say *please* he corrects himself and says "Oh that is the pittie way to ask it."

March 6th: Smout's Canary dies.

March 7th: To-day Cummy buried it in the back green and Smout came and told me that "She put dirt upon it."

March 8th: When Smout says his prayers he asks "Is my speaking to God?"

March 10th: Dear little Smout very ill with an attack of croup. He had on a mustard plaster on his chest and two leeches on his dear little foot—when he saw the blood he said "Cover it up, cover it up." The bites had to be burned with caustic. He was very patient, dear little man, but accused Cummy of hurting him.

March 17th: Better but pallid.

March 20th: Cummy fears Smout's *affliction has not done him good* as he is much averse to prayers, hymns and all good things.

April 3rd: When I was telling Smout about the naughty woman pouring the ointment on Christ he said "But Ma-ma why did God make the woman so naughty?"

April 15th: Colinton Manse. Smout is so happy in dear Grandpapa's house that he says he will not go home again.

April 16th: Auntie was telling Smout about an owl, and said that it could not see in the daylight; he immediately said "Oh auntie, you might put up the gas for it."

April 17th: Smout at Church and behaved very well. Johnnie and Noona are quite surprised because Smout says prayers out of his head. This is because he puts in the name of everybody in the house of his own accord.

April 23rd: Home to-day. Smout in great despair his only comfort being that he will see Bo and Mary.

[See page 17.]

Vaccination

By whom performed: Dr. Malcolm.

Date: July 18th, 1851.

Weight and Growth

Growth at two years, 2 feet 9 inches.

Weight at two years, 27 lbs.

[See page 19.]

Amusements

Pet Animals

Coolin, a Skye terrier was given to him just before he was 7 years old and was his constant companion ever after. Coolin could play at hide and seek and do many tricks.

[See page 20.]

May 20th: Smout at Free Church, Bridge of Allan with Cummy and was very good. He got a sweetie before he went in and kept it in his hand the whole time. The servant in our lodgings thinks he should be "put in the papers" as something extraordinary.

June 13th: On the way to Church, Smout made the announcement that he "liked the *white* ministers best."

June 28th: Smout at Logie Church with us, he said he saw
“Two babies getting their faces washed.”

July 24th: Smout at Pilrig Church with Cummy when he came home he told us “The furthest down minister (the precentor) roared as loud as ever he could.”

Smout's favourite occupation is “making a Church” He makes a pulpit with a chair and stool and reads sitting and then stands up and sings by turns.

August: Went to St. Andrews. There was a cat in the house (Bell Street) which delighted Smout very much, when it purred he said it was singing “joyful.”

August 4th: Smout is delighted with the ruins of the Bishop's palace and the story of “Caudel Betel” and the bottle dungeon. He gets a bit of paper tied to a string, standing on a chair and shews the way the man shews the dungeon.

[See page 21.]

Dates of Sickness

MUMPS. July 23rd, 1855. Very easily well on the 28th.

[See pages 22 and 23.]

August 11th: Smout's weight—2 stone, 1-lb. He rides on a donkey almost every day and likes it. He rides beautifully without being held on.

September: At Prestonpans we have a donkey of our own and Smout calls it “Sashy.” The weather is so cold and windy that he is very seldom able to ride on it.

October 1st: Smout's height is 2 ft., 11 1/2 ins. He is a great chatter-box and speaks very distinctly. He knows a great many stories out of the Bible and about half the letters of the alphabet, but he is not so fond of hymns as he used to be.

December 3rd: Mr. Senan at dinner. Smout recited the first 4 lines of “On Linden” in great style waving his hands

and making a splendid bow at the end. This is Cummy's teaching.

December 5th: His Grandfather was made "DD." to-day. When he was told, he said "Well, will he come to see you when you're ill?"

December 6th: Smout drove to Lassmade with Aunt Jane and Grandaunt Marion and at night "Grandpapa's horse" was included in his prayers.

December 8th: Smout said "I don't like that moon, it has got a bit broken off it."

December 10th: Smout was building the Tabernacle with his bricks to-day and he asked "where the Holy of Holies was," and said he was putting up the pins for the court. He then remarked "This Tabernacle is *sticked* on to the road, it is n't meant to be carried about."

1854

January 12th: Poor Lou said in a doleful tone "I've got nobody to play with me, will you come Mama?"

January 15th: Smout told about Pilgrims Progress much to his delight.

January 21st: Alan, Margaret and Bob come to pay us a visit, when they got home Bob told his sisters of the delights of Inverleith Terrace where "there was only one dear child who was always good, a nurse who was never cross and late dinners."

January 24th: Smout seems very tired, he came to me and said "Do you think I'm looking very ill?" It turns out infantile remittent fever.

January 31st: Smout able to play with his bricks on a tea tray in bed.

March 3rd: Smout complained of the figs because he said "They had nuts inside them." Tom thinks this quite a scientific discovery.

March 21st: When I told Smout about the way the Americans used their slaves, he said "I think God might send them a punishment."

March 26th: When I read "There is beyond the sky" to Lou he said "But *why* has God got a hell?" I said "Are we good or bad people?" Smout "I think you and Papa are good."

[See page 24.]

I said "But what kind of hearts have we?" Smout "I think you 've a nice one."

March 30th: Smout was distressed to hear that sheep and horses did not know about God and said "I think somebody might read the Bible to them."

April 12th: Smout's little cousin "Bo" died to-day. He did not like to hear about it, and said "he hoped it would please God *never* to let him die." He asked if "Bo would be playing in Heaven."

April 17th: When Smout was drawing pictures he said "I have drawn a man's *body*, shall I do his *soul* now?"

April 19th: When Smout was shown a bird's nest he said "There were little birdies in the nest and eggies for them to eat."

May 18th: Smout wishes us to bring him "a small hammer and four small nails" from London.

June 26th: Smout and I were talking about Heaven and Golden Harps and he said "But I'm afraid I couldn't play *nicely* upon my one."

July 17th: Lou at Church at Inveresk. He said of the sermon "It was not so good as I thought."

July 24th: Lou cried because he "forgot to pray that dear Papa might be brought safe home."

July 27th: When Lou was asked if he admired a dress he said "No, it is very vulgar."

September 15th: Lou sawed through a piece of wood.

[See page 25.]

Teeth

Two lower teeth: April 16th, 1851.

First upper tooth: May 18th, 1851.

Second upper tooth: June 3rd, 1851.

Fifth tooth: June 8th, 1851.

Sixth tooth: June 27th, 1851.

Seventh tooth: September 2nd, 1851.

Eighth tooth: October 4th, 1851.

First double tooth: December 3rd, 1851.

2nd and 3rd double tooth: December 7th, 1851.

4th double tooth: December 16th, 1851.

First tooth lost: July 9th, 1856.

Two double teeth, 1 above and 1 below discovered: September 4th, 1852.

3rd double tooth: September 27th.

4th double tooth: October 23rd.

[See page 26.]

October 14th: Smout sees Jane Watson's baby and says "She is very nice in the face."

November 13th: Louis' 4th birthday. He got a brooch to give to Cummy but said in a disappointed tone "People always gets presents for themselves on their birthdays."

December 2nd: Home from Morningside where we had been for a month on Louis' account. He said he was glad to get

home as we had not a nice sideboard at Morningside. It just had a place for setting things on and then another place for setting things on and that was all.

December 8th: Lou said "You can never be good unless you pray" when asked how he knew, he said with great emphasis "Because I've tried it."

December 11th: Lou is improving, but requires to be kept very quiet. When forbidden to run about with one of his cousins, he looked thoughtful for a minute, then threw away a toy which he had in his hand, and said with great indignation, "I can't be bothered with such fiddle de dee and nonsense."

December 18th: Lou sits for his portrait in chalk to Mr. Archer. When Mr. Archer asked him what kind of stories he liked best he said "I like parables (a pause) and funny stories, too, you know." He chinks over every picture he can get hold of.

[See page 27.]

December 22nd: Lou prays every night of his own accord that God would bless the poor soldiers that are fighting at Sebastopol.

December 25th: Smout got a sword for his Christmas present. When Tom was disparaging it, he said "I can tell you Papa, it is a silver sword and a gold sheath" and the boy's very well off and quite contented.

1855

January 1st: Dear little Lou very well indeed just now he neither coughs nor wheezes.

January 2nd: Smout asked to have his name put on a book. I said "Mr. Smout is on it." He replied "Oh but you must put it's his book or somebody will say 'och, och, och, Mr.

Smoutie has been writing his name on one of his Papa's books.'"

January 5th: Dear Smout's curls cut off to-day. I was quite sorry to part with them. His hair is made very short and he is rather a fright.

January 8th: Lou "Do the flies make honey?" Ma "No dear." Lou "Then do they make butter like *butterflies*?" Ma "Butterflies don't make butter." Lou "Then what is the use of them?"

January 9th: When made to wear a shawl above his sword he was in distress for fear it would not look like a soldier and then said "Do you think it will look like a *night march*, Mama?"

January 10th: When Lou saw the sun looking red he said "It's just like a great big orange thrown up into the sky."

[See page 28.]

January 12th: Smout measured to-day, his height is 3 ft 3 inches and half a quarter, he has grown almost $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches since last April.

January 16th: Cummy was climbing the ladder to-day to hang up Dicky, and told Lou to hold it for her. It gave way and he began to say "It's too heavy, it's too heavy" but he did not let go his hold even when he got his nose bled, indeed he clutched at Cummy's gown to keep her from falling.

January 18th: Smout snibbed himself into the nursery to-day and we could not get the door open till Mr. Hunter (the wright) came and took out the panel. He was very good as long as any one spoke through the door to him, but cried when we tried to get him to open it. When he got out he said he had been afraid that he would never get out any more but would just be lost.

January 22nd: Lou has taken a great fancy to the parable of the vineyard let out to husbandmen and can repeat it perfectly just from hearing it read.

February 6th: Lou dreamt that "he heard the noise of pens writing."

February 7th: When I asked Lou what story he would like read, he said "Oh you may read the 9th story of John, that's about the man that was born blind you know."

February 8th: Tom and I played at Willie Wastle with Lou last night. He was greatly delighted but got into such a state of excitement that he scarcely slept all night.

[See page 29.]

February 15th: Lou is quite mad on the subject of soldiers, and the War. He prays night and morning for our poor soldiers that are fighting at Sebastopol and that they may get the victory. This is quite of his own accord.

February 23rd: Lou said "How can God give us his Holy Spirit and yet be good Himself? I'm at a loss," he also said "I'm often sorry in the night when I think of all the Jews did to Jesus."

At this time Cummy had been ill and had gone home for a change and I had influenza and was confined to bed so Lou was very much alone. He generally spent his time in colouring the pictures in pictorial papers with coloured chalks. One day when his aunt Warden went in to see him she asked if he did not weary all alone, he replied "Oh no, I'm always doing something you know."

March 5th: Lou thinks he is more like Jonathan than any of the other Bible characters as Jonathan had a sword and a bow and arrows, and so has he. He is generally either Jonathan or Lord Raglan, just now.

March 17th: Smout's dream "I dreamt that I was going downstairs and I saw a Russian bear looking out at the pantry door, and it came up and took hold of my foot and I awoke and it was just a dream."

[See page 30.]

March 29th: Another dream. "I dreamt that I was at a marriage and a boy asked me to go to his room and when I looked out at the window I saw a basket hanging down from the sky and it was full of doors all around and somebody gave me something that wasn't good for me and I would not take it." The something appeared to be a cookie of some kind and he said the basket "was hung on a nail driven into a cloud."

May 6th: Smout's sermon verbatim "Whoever entereth into a field on the Sunday and reapeth or picketh sticks is not of God and shall not go to Heaven, but if he does anything more on the Sunday he must go to Hell. Everyone must do nothing that's wrong" Then a psalm was sung.

May 9th: Lou was naughty today, and after he went to bed he said to Cummy "I would like to be good, I think I must say my prayers more *earnestly*, but if I forget, will you do it for me?"

June 16th: Smout said "Am I to get a tuckie (sweetie) every night?" I thought I heard a *slight voice* of it.

June 17th: Smout complained that his tea was "*very faint*."

July 5th: (At Mount Clussie Lasswade) Smout said "There's a very large daisy not awake yet. Oh, I suppose it must be a night policeman for you know they keep awake all night and go to sleep through the day."

July 7th: Smout was asked "What would you do if you were left on a desert island?" S. "I would come away." "But if

there was water all round?" S. "I would come away in a ship." "But if there was no ship?" S. "I would send a letter by the post." "If there was none?" S. "I would sit down and take a hearty greet" (cry).

[See page 31.]

August 10th: Lou bathed in the sea (Portobello) for the first time and likes it very well.

August 17th: Lou now dips his face into the water himself and calls it going over the head. He is looking stronger than he has done for a long time, and enjoys digging in the sand. His favourite companion is little Marion Rhind.

September 1st:

SMOUT'S POETRY

"No sun is in the sky
While night comes on
Then stars and moon comes out
And then another day
The sun comes out again."

September 22nd: At Craggan near Arracher where we were staying with Grandpapa, we were all playing at tig (tag) and Smout said "I'll catch you round the house, Mama, but we'll both walk."

September 24th: Lou was trying to make a boat of a piece of stick and said it would not sail because the *occurrence* (current) was against it.

October 26th: Smout was drawing a lamp, after he made the post he said "Now I will put the hat on it."

November 4th: Lou dined in the dining room with us at five o'clock for the first time. He is to do it every Sunday and thinks himself a very big man.

1856

January 1st: Smout dines with us.

January 13th: Smout heard about fearing God, he said "Why should people fear him as if he was going to kill them?"

[See page 32.]

January 17th: Smout's prayer "O Lord if it seems good to you let me have a new brother or sister if you think proper."

January 18th: Lewie takes scarlatina to-day, a mild case.

February 5th: Dear wee Lou prayed among other things "that God would be very near every person that was not very well."

February 17th: When I asked Lou what he had been doing, he said "I've been playing all day—at least I've been making myself cheerful."

February 23rd: When Tom told Smout about putting lines of stones for the wheels of carts, he said "that was a very good idea and when we come to that bridge I'll shew you the railway and it's just the very same thing. And I'll shew you another thing that I want to know the meaning of, and that's why they put soda water bottles on the telegraph."

February 24th: I said something to Smout about Christ having died to save him, he said "Did He die to save me?" "Yes." "Me?" "Yes." "Well then, does n't that look very like as if I was saved already?"

March 7th: Smout said "I'm going to call you 'Mother' sometimes just that I may remember to do it when I'm a big man." At night he said, "Goodnight my gentlest of Mothers."

March 15th: Smout's syllogism "Mama, has a match gas?" "Why do you ask dear?" "Because Papa said flame was gas, now a match has a flame."

[See page 33.]

March 25th: Smout goes to Loms for dancing. "Joe" pronounced him stupid and gave him several blows with the fiddlestick—poor Smout looked at Cummy but did not cry. When Mrs. Warden asked him how he liked the dancing, he said "It was rather disappointing." He took cold after the lesson and was not able to go back.

April 12th: Smout and I come home after a week at Colinton. Smout is very sorry to leave and begs to be allowed to stay till Monday.

April 18th: Smout cannot understand the days getting longer and says "he would rather go to bed at the 7 o'clock that used to be."*

April 19th: When saying the second verse of "I'm not too young" Smout said "Surely that's gross nonsense for it looks as if God only saw me when I sinned, now I thought He saw me *always whatever* I was doing."

April 29th: Smout discovered that he can make purple paint by mixing crimson and blue.

June 15th: Tom explained to Louis the rise of the sap up the stem to the branches—on asking him if he understood the explanation he said "Yes the sap is like an old man, and the root and stem, the horse that pulls him up the hill."

July 4th: Lou's had a bad attack of "Mrs. Sanley" after had toothache.—He woke in a fright and was quite delirious for some time—we had to get the doctor.

*PUBLISHER'S NOTE.—This same idea is expressed in his well known "Bed in Summer" in "The Childs Garden of Verse" rhyme—

"In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer quite the other way
I have to go to bed by day."

July 6th: When Lou got a book for taking a dose and was told it cost 2/6 he said "If I had known it was so dear I would have choosed something else for I don't like to waste so much money on trifles."

[*See page 34.*]

Billy Traquair and Lou had been eating buttercups which caused the feverish attack on the 5th.

September 27th: Smout tried to fish for the first time (at Inverleithen) with a string and crooked pin. Tom Warden made him believe he had caught a fish and he was much charmed.

September 30th: Home from the country after a *very* wet summer. Smout is so enchanted with all his toys that he has scarcely time to eat.

October 7th: Bob Stevenson comes to stay with us.

November 13th: Lou's 6th birthday. Aunt Warden gives him a toy theatre and he and Bobbie set to work to paint the scenes with great eagerness.

November 23rd: Smout begins to-day to dictate a history of Moses to try for a prize which Uncle David is to give for the best.

November 26th: Lou has inflammation of the cheek. It is terribly swelled and he suffers so much that he tells me perhaps he may never be better.

December 21th: Lou finished his history of Moses to-day. He dictated every word himself on the Sunday evenings.

December 25th: Lou gets a Bible picture book as a prize for his Moses and is greatly charmed. When he got it he said "But I don't deserve it."

February 6th: Lou is still so feverish that we are alarmed & Tom gets Christison to see him. He says it is nothing but bronchitis, that he should soon be better, but this house (1 Inverleith Terrace) is bad for him it is so cold from being an end house.

[See pages 35 and 36.]

February 13th: Lou finished coloring a book of soldiers for David Alan—it was his own idea, he asked me to buy it for him.

February 20th: Took Lou to Colinton to-day for change, he complained of pain in his head and was very sick and ill all night. We sent for the doctor who says it is caused by milk, which he had been ordered—disagreeing with him.

March 18th: Lou still at Colinton and well.

April 10th: Take Lou to Bridge of Allan. Take Mrs. Haldane's lodgings where Lou is very happy with his gun. When Mrs. Warden saw him crouching behind a bush in the garden and asked what he was doing, he said "I'm hunting blawbacks." Auntie had been reading Mayne Reid's books to him.

In May we leave Inverleith Terrace and come to 17 Heriot Row.

May 11th: At Aberdown. Smout is improving very much here. He is getting very wild and like a boy.

September 30th: Dear Lewie goes to Mr. Henderson's School in India St. from 10 till 12 o'clock.

October 6th: Smout says "Mr. Henderson is the most nicest man that ever was."

November 13th: Dear Lewie spends his 7th birthday in bed having taken bronchitis but he is much comforted by the

companionship of his Skye terrier dog called "Coolin" which arrived lately from the West Coast.

1858

January 10th: Smout. "The Churches are much to blame for not sending missionaries to convert the Arabs." Mama. "But if people won't go what can the Churches do? Will you go when you're big?" S. "I think you've forgotten one word that was needful." M. "What is that?" S. "If I'm spared."

January 13th: Smout takes bronchitis again.

January 18th: To-day Lou drew a picture of Sir Henry Havelock praying which he sent to David Alan before his Papa had seen it. When he heard that I was vexed, he drew two others, but neither was so good as the first. The next time I saw him he said "I'm blamed for kindness and get no encouragement for endeavour."

January 30th: When told to take a sleep through the day Smout said "I'm just like Papa, I can never sleep in the daytime, I would be very thankful if I could."

February 2nd: Lou has been better and worse since the 13th ult. Tonight he becomes much more feverish.

February 6th: When Tom went into the nursery at 12 p. m. Smout was wide awake and said "You see I have very bad nights, Papa, I'm always thankful when the morning comes." Better on 12th and goes to Colinton on 17th, much to his delight. He stays till March 9th.

March 10th: Mr. Winstanley, a young English student, begins to teach Smout from 10 to 12. He turns out a disappointment, and goes off without paying his bills.

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